

BuzzFeed

1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009
Ph: (202) 602-1510

March 29, 2016

Director, Disclosure Services
U.S. General Services Administration
FOIA Requester Service Center (H1C)
1800 F St. NW, Room 7308
Washington, DC 20405-0001

Transmitted by Fax to: (202) 501-2727

RE: Records related to Old Post Office Ground Lease and Award thereof.

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act and under the Electronic Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C 552.

On behalf of BuzzFeed News and myself, jointly, I request that you provide us copies of the Records¹ identified and described below:

- Letter issued by GSA to Trump Old Post Office LLC dated November 25, 2013 regarding pre-construction authorization.
- Letter agreement between GSA and Trump Old Post Office dated December 2, 2013 regarding pre-construction authorization
- Letter between GSA and Trump Old Post Office LLC, dated February 19, 2014, regarding submission deliveries
- Letter agreement between GSA and Old Post Office LLC, dated March 7, 2014
- Letter issued by GSA to Trump Old Post Office LLC, dated May 30, 2014, regarding pre-construction authorization.

Please release the responsive records pursuant to the following stipulations and specifications:

- **Format:** we prefer to receive records in the following formats, listed in order of preference:
 - (1) an electronic data format such as a spreadsheet, delimited data set, database file, or similar;
 - (2) other non-proprietary electronic format;
 - (3) word processing file, text-based PDF, or similar;
 - (4) paper copies.
- **Related documentation:** Please also provide any and all documentation related to such electronic records, including but not limited to data dictionaries, database

¹ Records include but are not limited to documents, memos, emails, databases, calendars, phone logs, letters, meeting agendas, advisories, reports, images, summary or staff reports, data submissions, audio or video recordings and other digital media. Records can be produced by staff or systems of any entity, including GSA; its contractors, agents; any subcontractors thereof; and any other business partner or related entity.

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documentation, record layouts, code sheets, data entry instructions, and similar printed or electronic documentation materials.

- **Timely response:** Please respond within 10 working days to the below request for expedited handling, and within 20 working days to the overall request, as the Act provides, or notify me if "unusual" or "exceptional" circumstances apply (as those terms are employed in the Act).
- **Rolling release of records:** Please release any information pursuant to my requests as it is received and/or reviewed by your office, rather than waiting to send me all the material I have requested in a single batch.
- **Partial release of records containing both exempt and non-exempt portions:** If you deem any portion of any responsive record to be exempt from disclosure, please release all other segregable parts.
- **Specify exemptions:** If you withhold any record or portion of a record, please specify which statutory exemptions are claimed for each withholding. Please provide indices of all redacted portions explaining why a particular exemption was deemed to apply to that portion of the records.
- **Failure to invoke discretion under presumption of transparency:** Please state separately your reasons for failing to invoke your discretion, as allowed by the Act and ordered by Attorney General Eric Holder, to release the requested information under a presumption of transparency. **This statement should include a description of each record withheld, including its date and size (e.g., amount of electronic memory or number of paper pages).**
- **Fee waiver/information of fees/expedited handling:** Please consider BuzzFeed's requests for a fee reduction, fee waiver and expedited handling. If the request for a fee waiver is denied, and if there are any search, review or duplication fees greater than \$75, please inform me as soon as you become aware of the potential fees. Please continue processing the request after so informing me unless I contact you and explicitly ask that it be withdrawn.

Request for fee reduction as a representative of the news media

This request is being made in connection with BuzzFeed News' newsgathering functions and not for any other commercial purpose. BuzzFeed intends to produce one or more original investigative reports based on analysis of the requested information.

BuzzFeed News issues dozens of in-depth, original investigative news reports each year on its website, www.buzzfeed.com. Our reporters covering Congress and congressional committees are credentialed by the Standing Committee of Correspondents of the Congressional Daily Press Gallery.

In response to previous FOIA requests, federal agencies including the Department of Treasury, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense, among others, have exempted BuzzFeed news from search and review fees pursuant to its status as a representative of the news media.

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Request for expedited handling

BuzzFeed News asks that the fulfillment of this request be expedited. This request meets the criteria for expedited processing under 28 CFR 16.5(d)(1)(ii), based on "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information;" and 28 CFR 16.5(d)(1)(iv), as "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence."

First, there exists an urgency to inform the public about this public-private real estate development venture both because it entails the ongoing development of a building of national historical importance; and because it involves the business interests of Donald J. Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for President of the United States. The records requested may serve the public interest primarily to the extent that their contents can be disseminated while voters still have an opportunity to weigh Mr. Trump's business interests and the government's involvement therein.

The development is patently federal government activity, as it pertains to a lease executed by the federal General Services Administration. The project is a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest for similar reasons. There exist questions about the government's integrity insofar as competitors bidding on the project publicly have questioned the Trump company's qualifications to complete the deal. The records requested go directly to the heart of whether the company is or is not qualified, and therefore, speak questions about the government's integrity which, given Mr. Trump's profile, clearly affect public confidence.

Indeed, given the political climate, landmark nature of the OPO project and challenges inherent in identifying and producing the requested records, it is difficult to imagine another situation in which expedited processing would be more appropriate than it is here.

Request for fee waiver

In addition, BuzzFeed News requests a waiver of all duplication fees for this request as permitted under the Act. Disclosure of the requested information to BuzzFeed News is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government by illuminating the development of a major site of national historical significance by a business organization led in part by a leading presidential candidate. The disclosures we request under the Freedom of Information Act primarily serve the public interest and not any direct commercial interest.

Please feel free to contact me about any aspect of this request. BuzzFeed News is willing, in principle, to consider ways in which this request might reasonably be narrowed.

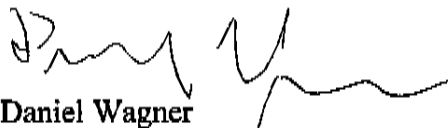
Thank you for your attention to this request.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing, including the request for expedited processing, is true and correct. Executed on March 29, 2016.

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1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009
Ph: (202) 802-1510

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Wagner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Wagner
BuzzFeed News
Suite 700
1630 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009
daniel.wagner@buzzfeed.com